

RE: Commercial Truck Driver Protest - Operational Impacts - Situational Report - January 29, 2022

From: "Whitehorne, Philip" <philip.whitehorne@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca>
To: "Bolton, Laura" <laura.bolton@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca>
Date: Sat, 29 Jan 2022 20:46:32 +0000

Thanks Laura!

Philip Whitehorne
Manager, Travellers Branch
Canada Border Services Agency / Government of Canada
Philip.Whitehorne@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca / Tel: 613-941-8861 / TTY: 1-866-335-3237

Gestionnaire, Direction générale des voyageurs
Agence des services frontaliers du Canada / Gouvernement du Canada
Philip.Whitehorne@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca / Tél: 613-941-8861 / ATS: 1-866-335-3237

From: Bolton, Laura <Laura.Bolton@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca>
Sent: January 29, 2022 3:45 PM
To: Whitehorne, Philip <Philip.Whitehorne@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca>
Subject: RE: Commercial Truck Driver Protest - Operational Impacts - Situational Report - January 29, 2022

Done ☺

From: Whitehorne, Philip <Philip.Whitehorne@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca>
Sent: January 29, 2022 3:29 PM
To: Bolton, Laura <Laura.Bolton@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca>
Subject: FW: Commercial Truck Driver Protest - Operational Impacts - Situational Report - January 29, 2022

Looks great, just remove the wording in the ITF section to indicate nothing to report.

Philip Whitehorne
Manager, Travellers Branch
Canada Border Services Agency / Government of Canada
Philip.Whitehorne@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca / Tel: 613-941-8861 / TTY: 1-866-335-3237

Gestionnaire, Direction générale des voyageurs
Agence des services frontaliers du Canada / Gouvernement du Canada
Philip.Whitehorne@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca / Tél: 613-941-8861 / ATS: 1-866-335-3237

From: Sauvé, Mike <Mike.Sauve@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca>
Sent: January 29, 2022 3:27 PM
To: Border Operations Centre / Centre des Operations Frontalières (CBSA/ASFC) <BOC-COF@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca>; Brown, Nicholas <Nicholas.Brown@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca>; Lamarche, Lynne <Lynne.Lamarche@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca>; Dwyne, Erin <Erin.Dwyne@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca>; Whitehorne, Philip <Philip.Whitehorne@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca>
Cc: Jenkins, Andy <Andy.Jenkins@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca>; CBSA-ASFC_BOC-WRC_Supervisors-Superviseurs_COF-CCM <M3333100AAG@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca>

Subject: FW: Commercial Truck Driver Protest - Operational Impacts - Situational Report - January 29, 2022

IEB DG approved intel update embedded into your 1350 SITREP below.

Mike

From: Sauv , Mike <Mike.Sauve@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca>
Sent: January 29, 2022 2:00 PM
To: Bisson, Michael <Michael.Bisson@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca>
Cc: LeBlanc, Jennifer <Jennifer.LeBlanc@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca>
Subject: FW: Commercial Truck Driver Protest - Operational Impacts - Situational Report - January 29, 2022

With today's intel update embedded into the BOC's latest report.

Mike

From: Jenkins, Andy <Andy.Jenkins@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca>
Sent: January 29, 2022 1:58 PM
To: Sauv , Mike <Mike.Sauve@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca>
Subject: FW: Commercial Truck Driver Protest - Operational Impacts - Situational Report - January 29, 2022

Protected A

<i>Situational Report</i>
Commercial Truck Driver Protest Operational Impacts
January 29, 2022

Background

On January 15, 2022, an Order of Council (OIC) was put in-place to mandate vaccinations for commercial truck drivers crossing the border. As a result, commercial truck drivers around the country have organized and started protesting outside port of entries (POEs) by blocking roads and slowing traffic, along with a convoy of commercial vehicles headed towards Ottawa to protest outside Parliament.

Convoy status:

South Route (SOR/GTAR):

- January 27, 2022 – Convoys from Fort Erie and Sarnia plan to depart for Ottawa on January 27, with potential stopover in Kingston for rest and to meet with additional convoys. The South

Route convoy from Windsor is continuing with “slow rolls” today and will be moving onwards to Kingston on January 28.

- January 28, 2022 - The convoy arrived in Kingston and is expected to depart for Ottawa on January 28 at 0830 ET and is expected to arrive on Parliament Hill at 1200 ET.
- January 29, 2022 – Two additional convoys have been scheduled to depart Peterborough (0545 ET) and Kingston (0830 ET). They are both scheduled to arrive on Parliament Hill at 1200 ET on January 29, 2021.

West Route (PAC):

- January 27, 2022 - The “Convoy for Freedom 2022” departed B.C. on January 23, 2022, and will make its way to Ottawa. According to the itinerary, on January 27, it will be travelling through Thunder Bay towards Sault Ste. Marie.
- January 28, 2022 - The convoy is expected to leave Sault Ste. Marie on January 28 at 0600 ET and is expected to stop in multiple locations, including Sudbury and North Bay, to end their day at 1800 ET in Arnprior, ON. This convoy is expected to arrive on Parliament Hill at 1200 ET on January 29.
- January 29, 2022 – The convoy was delayed arriving in Arnprior on January 28, 2022. The convoy is scheduled to depart at 1100 ET in order to arrive on Parliament Hill at 1200 ET.

East Route (ATL/QC/NOR):

- January 27, 2022 - The Freedom Convoy 2022 website has not updated this route, however, has indicated on their website that this route is still scheduled to be arriving in Ottawa as of January 29, 2022.
- January 28, 2022 - Based on the website, this convoy is expected to leave Rivière-du-Loup at 0700 ET on January 28 and will make multiple stops, including in Quebec City. They are expected to arrive in Vankleek Hill, Ontario, at 1500 ET to end their day. This convoy is expected to arrive on Parliament Hill at 1200 ET on January 29.
- January 29, 2022 – The convoy from Quebec region is scheduled to depart Vankleek Hill at 1030 ET and a second convoy is scheduled to depart Cornwall at 1000 ET to converge on Parliament Hill at 1200 ET.

United States:

- January 28, 2022 - “Freedom Fighter Nation Protest” (USA): An advocacy group called “Freedom Fighter Nation” is calling for protests on the US side of the border “to join our Canadian brothers and sisters in the Fight for Freedom.” Identified locations of these protests are currently in Houlton, Maine; Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan; and Sweet Grass, Montana.
- January 29, 2022 –The “Freedom Fighter Nation Protest” group is requesting protestors to arrive at the three border locations (Houlton, Maine; Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan; and Sweet Grass, Montana) for 1200 ET on January 29, 2022, in order to join in the Fight for Freedom. There is no indication as to how many protestors will be present.

US Protestors Identified at Port of Entries

- January 29, 2022, as of 1200 ET, no reports have been received by the BOC regarding protestors arriving from the US at POEs. No information is currently available for the number of protestors that have been allowed to enter Canada or have been returned to the US.
- Two confirmed independent journalists, seeking entry to travel to Ottawa to report on the protests, arrived at the Lansdowne POE. The travellers met all entry requirements and provided identification and equipment consistent with their stated purpose of travel.

Atlantic Region

Operational Plans have been developed and shared with HQ.

The region is currently monitoring potential convoy protests with three routes specific to the Atlantic Region.

On January 29, 2022, at 0900 AT, the Atlantic Region Operations Centre (ROC) was activated by the Regional Director General due to planned protests and blockades at the Woodstock POE and in the St. Stephen's Area. Additionally, anticipated winter storms in the Maritimes on January 29th and 30th are expected to have some impact on access to the POEs.

Local brokerages are considering diverting the commercial traffic to other POE's during this protest period. St Stephen would be the logical alternative, despite there being the possibility of an offshoot protest in that area as well. The next strategy would be for the brokers to simply tell the drivers to wait out the protest further south.

January 28, 2022 - Brokerages have now stated that they will advise drivers to enter Canada before or after the planned protest activities. Also for the drivers to consider the weather forecasted for Saturday in their crossing times. At this point, they will not be diverting traffic to alternative sites. Saturdays are typically not busy with commercial traffic at this location so will have minimal impact.

Woodstock: A BIS line call was received from someone representing the "Freedom Trucker Convoy" indicating that a blockade will take place at the Woodstock POE and possibly St. Stephen 3rd Bridge for a period of 24 hours. The caller also mentioned that similar activities would be taking place at the Sweet Grass and Sault-Ste-Marie crossings. Unclear if this caller is affiliated with the movements occurring in the US.

January 29, 2022 – As of 1300 AT, a total of eight personal vehicles arrived from within Canada and on the highway near the POE. The group had blocked one of the southbound lanes heading into the US, but no impacts were reported to CBSA Operations. One media vehicle was parked on the southbound highway during the day, taking photos of the Canadian side of the border. The Convoy was expected to arrive at 1300 AT, and the RCMP indication they would have members onsite for public safety, crowd control and to manage the flow of traffic from Route 95. Additionally the area is experiencing a winter snow storm.

Quebec Region

On January 28, 2022, truckers will be meeting at three POEs (Saint-Theophile, Stanstead, and Saint-Bernard-de-Lacolle), will drive on Highway 40 until Vankleek Hill (ON), and will move onward to Ottawa on January 29, 2022.

Northern Ontario Region

Sault Ste. Marie: As of 1100 ET, no protestors or vehicles were present on either side of the border.

Lansdowne: At 1218 ET, a media outlet arrived at the POE and engaged the superintendents, who directed the media representative to CBSA Communications line. The representative proceeded to film from the staff parking lot before returning to their vehicle and leaving. No impacts to CBSA operations were reported.

Southern Ontario Region

Rainbow Bridge: Information has been received from various open and law enforcement sources indicating a potential mobile protest at the Rainbow Bridge POE on January 29, 2022. Information suggests that the demonstration will occur on both the Canadian and American sides of the border. So far, this movement is being supported by the PPC, Freedom 2022, Let Us Reunite, and Lockdowns No More. SOR IEOD is engaged and monitoring.

Ambassador Bridge: As of 1200 ET, approximately 100 vehicles were driving down Huron Church Road, however it is not impacting border traffic at this time. There were approximately 40 cars protesting on the US side and their protest was not impeding operations.

Prairie Region

Operational Plans have been developed and shared with HQ.

Coutts: An Instagram movement called **s.37** is starting a protest on January 29, 2022 and will remain in the area of the POE until all mandates and restrictions are lifted. Information gathered suggests that trucks and vehicles will block access in both directions. The organizer contacted the CBSA to confirm that they will let emergency vehicles and CBSA employees through to the POE. An action plan has been put in place. RCMP and other officials have been contacted.

January 29, 2022 – As of 1015 CT, an estimated 1,000 conveyance convoy, stretching 50km long, was approximately 15km north of the POE. RCMP staged vehicles at the POE, ready for the arrival.

Carway: A blockade action is being planned at the Carway POE on Saturday, January 29, 2022. According to social media, the intention to block access to the border. The group has indicated they will allow trucks to pass.

January 29, 2022 – As of 1145 ET, a small group of about 20 vehicles were parked at the Duty Free Store north of the POE. The vehicles arrived honking horns, however none were blocking the highway. Everything remains peaceful and the protest was not affecting CBSA Operations.

Emerson: Manitoba Operation Freedom Border Protest is set to occur this Saturday, January 29, starting at 0500 CT at the Emerson POE. The protest will start as a slow roll event but the intention is to become a complete standstill in order to block access to the border.

January 29, 2022 - As of 0702 ET, the Emerson POE reported approximately 100 commercial and other vehicles assembled north of the POE. One lane on Highway 75 remained open for vehicles to pass southbound and some vehicles were seen using the turn around lane prior to the POE to loop and go Northbound. As of 0757 ET, the convoy was in full swing with traffic slowly rolling. Vehicles being released from Primary Inspection were able to proceed north as the convoy was letting vehicles through even though all lanes North and South appeared to be occupied by the convoy.

January 29, 2022 – As of 1145 ET, vehicles have kept to one of two highway lanes in both directions, however, traffic was congested. Traffic into Canada was flowing but was being slowed by the convoy immediately north of the CBSA property. Currently there is no impacts on CBSA Operations.

Pacific Region

Kingsgate: Social Media Posts on Cranbrook, BC Facebook groups indicated a planned protest in the city of Cranbrook on January 29, 2022. The post also directed supporters to either the port of Roosville or Kingsgate to rally at the borders.

Osoyoos: Local management will be onsite on January 29, 2022, following open source social media posts regarding possible protests at the POE. Management will engage the RCMP if required. On January 28, 2022, the RCMP informed CBSA that a convoy would be gathering at Osoyoos Town hall at 1300 PT and then move towards the POE.

Paterson: US Customs and Border Protection informed the CBSA of open source social media activity regarding a protest originating in Northport, WA that would be travelling towards the POE. Local management is engaged and continues to liaise with their US counterpart.

Douglas: Open Source social media posts have suggested possible protests near the Douglas, Aldergrove and Pacific Highway POEs. A US based border protest has posted meeting times at three locations (Blaine, Lynden, and Peace Arch Park) starting 1200 PT and is calling for Canadians to meet on Canadian side. Posts have gotten minimal interaction but there are some indications of Canadians stating they will attend. Messaging to the protestors is to remain calm and peaceful.

Intelligence and Enforcement

Key Points:

- An analysis of SRT reporting, OSINT, s.38 [REDACTED] indicates that there are no credible threats currently identified for any POE.

- As of January 28, 1500hrs, protesters have gathered at Parliament Hill. Reliable estimates on the number of convoys, vehicles and people arriving in Ottawa continue to be difficult to obtain. The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) reported 1352 vehicles in Ontario at the time of this writing and will continue providing updates as information becomes available
- The duration of the event in Ottawa still remains unknown. In addition to planned protests, impromptu protests will occur with little or no social media advertising beforehand. Locations such as hospitals, protected sites, media outlets and personal residences of political figures may be attractive locations for protest.
- No formal organized plot of violence has been identified, however, there are a number of factors which could impact the situation as the protest mobilizes. This could include the number of people in the crowd, potential for altercations amongst protesters and with law enforcement and the influence of ideologically motivated actors or charismatic speakers. This may impact the temperature of the crowd and the potential for violence by a lone actor or fringe group cannot be discounted as protesters flow into Ottawa. As with all large public order events, these factors may have the potential to galvanize larger portions of the protesters to violence.

BACKGROUND

In January 2022, the Government of Canada announced a federal vaccine mandate requiring that all Commercial Motor Vehicle (CMV) drivers crossing the border must be fully vaccinated as of January 15, 2022. In response to this requirement, a national event entitled “Freedom Convoy 2022” (AKA #BearHug2.0) was planned via social media, which advertised as a fundraiser and then gained momentum on other platforms. The convoy, which began on January 22 in various provinces, is likely to arrive in Ottawa between January 28 and 29, 2022. Funding for the “Freedom Convoy 2022” was at \$5.2 million at the time of this writing; these funds are currently being withheld by GoFundMe until the protest can demonstrate that they will have adequate financial management and oversight.

CONVOY PARTICIPANTS, SUPPORT, AND POTENTIAL THREAT ACTORS

No formal organized plot of violence has been identified, however, there are a number of factors which could impact the situation as the protest mobilizes, including the number of people in the crowd, potential for altercations amongst protesters and with law enforcement and the influence of ideologically motivated actors or charismatic speakers. This may impact the temperature of the crowd and the potential for violence by a lone actor or fringe group cannot be discounted as protesters flow into Ottawa. As with all large public order events, these factors may have the potential to galvanize larger portions of the protesters to violence.

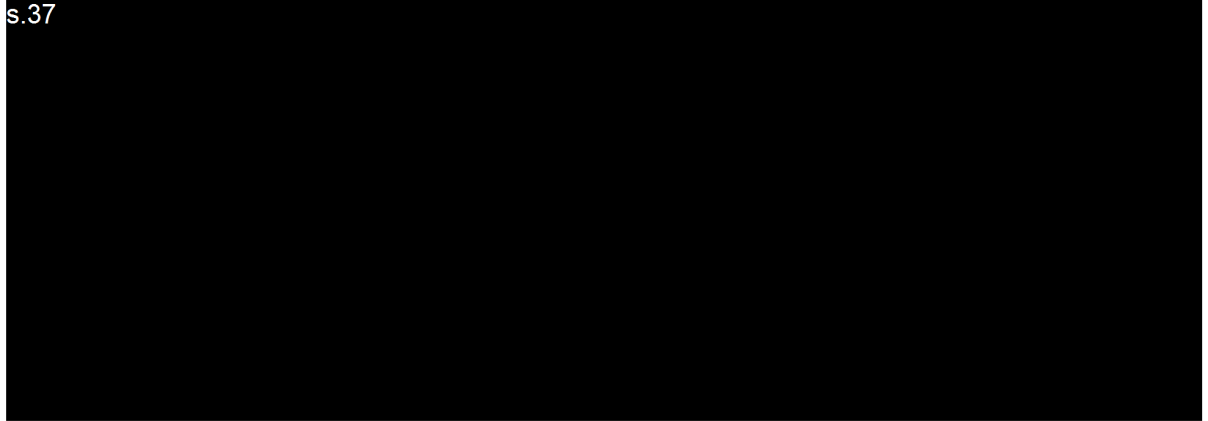
Heavy machinery has been identified via open source networks on some of the transports. At this time, it is unknown why this machinery is being transported to Ottawa, however, it is possible it will be used to obstruct areas. Videos circulating social media also show drivers in farming equipment such as plows and tractors joining the convoy. Further, Parliamentary Protective Service advised of an online post showing a helicopter with a caption claiming it is being used to document the convoy. The post also references a drone pilot embedded in the convoy. Their intended use is unknown at this time.

Canada-wide solidarity actions continue to see increased promotion and events in several Canadian provinces will be occurring simultaneously with the protest in Ottawa. Solidarity actions outside news media outlets are being planned in addition to actions outside legislative buildings and border crossings. As the situation in Ottawa continues to receive widespread coverage, actions in Ottawa may influence impromptu events in other Canadian provinces.

SUPPORT FROM LIKE MINDED INDIVIDUALS IN THE U.S.

The RCMP reports:

s.37



INFLUENCE OF ONLINE RHETORIC

Canadian law enforcement agencies including the Ottawa Police have expressed concern over some of the online rhetoric regarding the trucker convoy and the planned protest. Government officials have noted that to date while small numbers of supporters have appeared at all of the stops by the convoy there has been no violent incidents reported. The online rhetoric has now encompassed a variety of conspiracy theories beyond the anti-vaccination movement including questioning the legitimacy of the Federal Government and QAnon-like beliefs regarding government officials engaging in illegal activities. Some online postings have urged violence including attempting to turn the protest in Ottawa into a riot similar to the January 6, 2021 assault on the US Capitol Building. It is not clear at this time how many individuals, if any, are planning to respond to the online calls for violent protest by engaging in acts of violence (including attempting to assault government officials or the destruction of property). The RCMP and Parliamentary Protective Service are standing up a National Capital Region command centre to coordinate communications between all the agencies that will be involved in providing security during the planned protest in Ottawa.

The RCMP reports:

Chatter online is also beginning to question what will happen if the protest is ignored by the government. Some responses include hostile rhetoric suggesting that the protest needs to “get violent”, while other imagery is suggestive of a permanent gridlock around Ottawa until “freedom” is restored. No credible threat of violence has been observed in these conversations at this time.

IMPACT ON CBSA

An analysis of SRT reporting, OSINT, s.37 indicates that there are no credible threats currently identified for any POE.

Available information does not suggest that these convoys will pose a threat to Officers, at present. Potential for delays in and around land border Ports of Entry impacting Commercial and Travellers border wait times (BWT).

“Hold the Line” Protest (SOR): Intel has reported on an electronic poster titled “Hold the Line” being posted regarding activity on January 29, 2022, for those who cannot attend protests in Ottawa. Truckers and supporters are being encouraged to block the border wherever they are located and to hold position while the convoy is stationed in Ottawa.

Coutts POE (PRA): An Instagram movement called **s.37** is starting a protest on January 29, 2022 and will remain in the area of the Coutts POE (and potentially Carway POE) until all mandates and restrictions are lifted. Information gathered suggests that trucks and vehicles will block access in both directions. The organizer contacted the CBSA to confirm that they will let emergency vehicles and CBSA employees through to the POE. An action plan has been put in place. RCMP and other officials have been contacted.

Emerson POE (PRA): "Manitoba Operation Freedom Border Protest" is set to occur this Saturday, January 29, starting at 05h00 at the Emerson POE. The protest will start as a slow roll event but the intention is to become a complete standstill in order to block access to the border.

"Freedom Fighter Nation Protest", USA: Information has been received **s.38** regarding an advocacy group called "Freedom Fighter Nation" which is calling for protests on the U.S. side of the border "to join our Canadian brothers and sisters in the Fight for Freedom." U.S. 'freedom-lovers' are being called on to congregate at 12:00pm on January 29th, 2022 at/near US Border points at Houlton, Maine (Woodstock, NB), Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan (SSM, ON) and Sweet Grass, Montana (Coutts, AB and Emerson, MB) to support the Canadian Freedom Convoy.

Internal Taskforce

Security of the building, infrastructure damage, etc. – Entries will be provided by the ITF

Communications

Media coverage:

- [Ottawa Citizen](#) reporting on the blockade that has taken over the downtown core, noting that the first wave of arrivals included mostly pickup trucks with signs including "the best immunity is God's immunity," and messages disparaging the PM. Also noting the hundreds of protest supporters who have gathered on overpasses above highways leading to the capital to cheer on the convoy. Crown sentiment seems to have moved away from the original vaccine mandate objective to an all-encompassing anti-government/anti-rules movement with one protesters quoted comparing measures in Quebec to North Korea and others saying that "the biggest thing is rights...that's what our ancestors fought and died for."
- An article in the [Edmonton Sun](#) asks "Most of Canada backs gov't, so why don't protesters leave?" referencing latest polls showing that Canadians support current measures, including the mandatory vaccination requirement for truckers at the border. The article also points out that the growing sentiment is that this has become a pandemic of the unvaccinated, with the unvaccinated being made to feel like lesser citizens due to stigma, job loss and fewer perceived freedoms.
- The [Edmonton Journal](#) is reporting on the growing foreign sympathizers who are jumping on the convoy protest bandwagon. Support in the US includes billionaire Elon Musk, who while vaccinated is calling the science unequivocal and mandates an erosion of freedom in America. Also voicing support is English comedian Russell Brand and Donald Trump Jr.
- [Globe and Mail](#) reporting on the various COVID measures in place across different provinces in the face of the trucker convoy this weekend that is demanding an end to all mandates writ large. The article refers to an Ipsos poll that said 67% of Canadians believe the virus has entered an endemic state as health officials believe we will see COVID right through 2022.

Media calls:

Yesterday we closed two calls, and follow-up questions, asking what tech is being used to “track” travellers entering Canada. This is stemming from misinformation given to Tucker Carlson by the [trucker protest organizer on Fox News](#).

Other Governmental Departments

Government Operations Centre (GOC):

- January 28, 2022 - As part of the protest, Canada Unity plans to present a request (MOU) to the Governor General and Senate for the removal of various COVID19 related Public Health Order restrictions. Some supporters suggested they would not leave Ottawa until vaccine mandates for public servants, Canadian travelers and cross-border truckers are lifted. An event Organizer stated the plan is to “gridlock the city, while leaving room for traffic to businesses and emergency vehicles to get through” while holding events with speakers at a yet to be disclosed stage location. A joint communication strategy is being developed by the City of Ottawa to ensure the public is informed of traffic and transit plans throughout the demonstration. Ottawa police are planning for around 1,000 to 2,000 vehicles, while also noting the Freedom Convoy has so far been peaceful and cooperative with police and city officials in other jurisdictions.
- January 29, 2022 – As of 1630 ET on January 28, 2022, the GOC is monitoring the potential to affect Critical Infrastructure (CI) including Federal assets. As a precautionary measure, and following recommendations from security partners, PSPC has authorized the lock down of all buildings under its control (100 Wellington, National Press Building, etc.). Access for essential building occupants will be maintained at all times. The Parliamentary Precinct Security Operations Center (SOC) will remain operational throughout the event and liaise closely between police, security personnel and PSPC stakeholders as required. Minto Properties received confirmation that individuals started to enter office buildings in the downtown core and some caused damages. As a result, Minto Place has locked down 180 Kent Street. All entrance doors will be locked (weekend mode) and security will be at each entrance to monitor access to and from the Complex. As of 1200 ET on January 29, 2022, it was reported by the media that the Prime Minister had left Rideau Cottage for an undisclosed location. Parliament Protective Services expects as many as 10,000 protestors to be in attendance. The protest in Ottawa remains peaceful and demonstrators are cooperating with local officers

Transport Canada:

- January 28, 2022 - Transport Canada has informed the CBSA that, as a result of the anticipated protest, the Transport Canada Situation Centre will temporarily relocate to its alternate site at the Ottawa Airport as of 1500 ET on January 27, 2022.

*This information is classified Protected A. IT MAY NOT BE DECLASSIFIED OR DISTRIBUTED OUTSIDE THE ORIGINAL RECIPIENT WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF CBSA. If you have any questions or follow up requests for detailed information, please contact the Border Operations Centre at **Irrelevant***

*Ces renseignements sont classifiés Protégé A. IL NE PEUT PAS ÊTRE DÉCLASSIFIÉ OU DISTRIBUÉ À L'EXTÉRIEUR DES DESTINATAIRES ORIGINALS SANS LE CONSENTEMENT DE L'ASFC. Si vous avez des questions ou désirez faire un suivi de demandes de renseignements détaillés, veuillez communiquer avec le Centre des opérations frontalières au **Irrelevant***